

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

(1) Replace the paragraph beginning at line 23 and ending at line 30 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The interface mechanism between the service cards ~~12~~ 24 and the core 16, 18 provides redundancy protection between the service cards and core without the requirement that extra core bandwidth be allotted for the protection cards. As shown in the exemplary embodiment, two on-line ATM service cards 24 are protected by one back-up or protect  
5 service card 26. The core interface card 14 permits routing of core data to and from any of the three cards. In addition, the protection card 26 can be switched in place without the corresponding re-routing having to be known to the rest of the system. --

(2) Replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 and ending at line 9 on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The basic approach to fault detection is to assume that the two cores 16, 18 are not in lock step, but that the shelves 12, ~~13~~ 20 are continually monitoring link flows for flow  
5 control data as well as user data. The flow monitoring is done largely in dedicated hardware and the status is passed up to a local processor within a service shelf 12, ~~13~~ 20 in order that recovery can proceed quickly. As will be explained in greater detail, the flow monitoring is accomplished using a combination of arbiter and aggregator functions (shown in Fig. 2) found in the service shelves 12, ~~13~~ 20 and core interface cards 14, respectively. The arbiter  
10 (ARB) transmits (on ingress) link test cells to both cores on a per flow basis, which are received and monitored at each arbiter on the egress side. --